

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A computer implemented method of managing electronic documents comprising:

providing a user with access to a plurality of prior art references, wherein each reference is an electronic documents; document;

maintaining an association at a computer system between a first set of one or more references and a first case file, wherein the first case file corresponds to a first patent application, and wherein the association between the first set of references and the first case file indicates that each of the references in the first set of references are relevant to the first patent application;

maintaining an association at the computer system between a second set of one or more references and a second case file, wherein the second case file corresponds to a second patent application, and wherein the association between the second set of references and the second case file indicates that each of the references in the second set of references is relevant to the second patent application;

providing a first interface element that is configured to allow a user to invoke a display of a list of the second set of references;

receiving, at the computer system, a first input from a user, the first input corresponding to the first interface element;

in response to the first input, displaying a list of the second set of references, wherein the display comprises an identifier corresponding to a first reference within the second set of references;

~~associating a first set of electronic documents, comprising one or more of the plurality of electronic documents, with a first case, wherein the first case corresponds to a first patent application, and wherein associating the first set of electronic documents with the first case comprises identifying the first set of electronic documents as relevant to the first patent application;~~

~~associating a second set of electronic documents, comprising one or more of the plurality of electronic documents, with a second case, wherein the second case corresponds to a second patent application, and wherein associating the second set of electronic documents with the second case comprises identifying the second set of electronic documents as relevant to the second patent application;~~

~~providing a second interface element that is configured to allow allowing the user to identify the first reference as being relevant to the first patent application select at least one electronic document in the second set to be associated with the first case; and~~

~~receiving, at the computer system, a second input from the user, the second input corresponding to the second interface element;~~

~~in response to the second input, associating, via an automated process at the computer system, the first reference associating the selected at least one electronic document with the first case; case file; and~~

~~creating, via an automated process at the computer system, an electronic information disclosure statement for the first patent application, wherein the electronic disclosure statement comprises information corresponding to the first reference.~~

2. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1 further comprising displaying for the user the second case file and links to the electronic documents each reference in the second set of references. ~~for the user.~~

3. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1 wherein displaying the second case 1, further comprising displaying a third case file and links to a third set of references, electronic documents, comprising one or more of the plurality of references, for electronic documents to a

user, the third case file corresponding to a third patent application and being associated with the third set of references. ~~electronic documents.~~

4. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1 further comprising displaying identifiers corresponding to each of the one or more references ~~document~~ references for the ~~electronic documents~~ in the first and second sets of references in individual rows of a first column, and displaying first and second case file identifiers at the top of second and third columns, wherein the rows of the second column include a marker when the reference ~~electronic document~~ corresponding to the row is associated with the first ~~ease~~, case file, and wherein the rows of the third column include a marker when the reference ~~electronic document~~ corresponding to the row is associated with the second ~~ease~~, case file.

5. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1 wherein the first patent application ~~ease~~ and second patent application ~~are related patent applications.~~ ~~ease are related eases.~~

6. (Currently amended) The method of claim 5 wherein the first patent application ~~ease~~ and second patent application ~~ease~~ have a common inventor.

7. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 5 wherein the first patent application ~~ease~~ and second patent application ~~ease~~ have the same assignee.

8. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 5 wherein the second patent application ~~ease~~ relates to a continuation patent application of the first patent application. ~~ease.~~

9. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 5 wherein the second patent application ~~ease~~ relates to a continuation-in-part patent application of the first patent application. ~~ease.~~

10. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 5 further comprising displaying a search screen to search for additional case files corresponding to applications related to the first patent application. ~~cases related to the first ease.~~

11. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1 wherein at least one of the plurality of references ~~electronic documents~~ is an electronic version of a United States Patent.

12. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1 wherein at least one of the plurality of references ~~electronic documents~~ is an electronic version of a foreign patent document.

13. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1 wherein at least one of the plurality of references ~~electronic documents~~ is an electronic version of a publication.

14. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein providing a user with access to a plurality of references ~~electronic documents~~ comprises storing at least some of the plurality of references ~~electronic documents~~ in a database.

15. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein providing a user with access to a plurality of references ~~electronic documents~~ comprises storing in a database information from at least some of the plurality of references ~~electronic documents~~.

16. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein providing a user with access to a plurality of references ~~electronic documents~~ comprises allowing a user to search the web for references ~~electronic documents~~.

17. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein providing a user with access to a plurality of references ~~electronic documents~~ comprises allowing a user to search a database of references ~~electronic documents~~.

18. (Previously presented) The method of claim 17, wherein the database is maintained by an official patent office.

19. (Currently Amended) A computer system for managing electronic documents, the system comprising:

a processor; and

a computer readable medium in communication with the processor, the computer readable medium comprising a set of instructions executable by the processor, the set of instructions comprising:

(a) instructions to provide a user with access to a plurality of prior art references, wherein each reference is an electronic document;

(b) instructions to maintain an association at the computer system between a first set of one or more references and a first case file, wherein the first case file corresponds to a first patent application, and wherein the association between the first set of references and the first case file indicates that each of the references in the first set of references are relevant to the first patent application;

(c) instructions to maintain an association at the computer system between a second set of one or more references and a second case file, wherein the second case file corresponds to a second patent application, and wherein the association between the second set of references and the second case file indicates that each of the references in the second set of references is relevant to the second patent application;

(d) instructions to provide a first interface element that is configured to allow a user to invoke a display of a list of the second set of references;

(e) in response to receiving a first input from a user, the first input corresponding to the first interface element, instructions to display a list of the second set of references, wherein the display comprises an identifier corresponding to a first reference within the second set of references;

~~(b) — instructions to associate a first set of electronic documents, comprising one or more of the plurality of electronic documents, with a first case, wherein the first case corresponds to a first patent application, and wherein associating the first set of electronic documents with the first case comprises identifying the first set of electronic documents as relevant to the first patent application;~~

~~(c) — instructions to associate a second set of electronic documents, comprising one or more of the plurality of electronic documents, with a second case, wherein the~~

~~second case corresponds to a second patent application, and wherein associating the second set of electronic documents with the second case comprises identifying the second set of electronic documents as relevant to the second patent application;~~

~~(d) — (f) instructions to provide a second interface element that is configured to allow the user to select the first reference as being relevant to the first patent application select at least one electronic document in the second set to be associated with the first case; and~~

~~(e) — (g) in response to receiving from the user a second input corresponding to the second interface element, instructions to associate the first reference selected at least one electronic document with the first case. case file; and~~

~~(k) instructions to create an electronic information disclosure statement for the first patent application, wherein the electronic disclosure statement comprises information corresponding to the first reference.~~

20. (Currently Amended) A computer program embodied on a computer readable medium, the computer program comprising a set of instructions executable by one or more computers, the set of instructions comprising:

(a) instructions to provide a user with access to a plurality of prior art references, wherein each reference is an electronic documents; document;

(b) instructions to maintain an association at the computer system between a first set of one or more references and a first case file, wherein the first case file corresponds to a first patent application, and wherein the association between the first set of references and the first case file indicates that each of the references in the first set of references are relevant to the first patent application;

(c) instructions to maintain an association at the computer system between a second set of one or more references and a second case file, wherein the second case file corresponds to a second patent application, and wherein the association between the second set of references and the second case file indicates that each of the references in the second set of references is relevant to the second patent application;

(d) instructions to provide a first interface element that is configured to allow a user to invoke a display of a list of the second set of references;

(e) in response to receiving a first input from a user, the first input corresponding to the first interface element, instructions to display a list of the second set of references, wherein the display comprises an identifier corresponding to a first reference within the second set of references;

~~(b) instructions to associate a first set of electronic documents, comprising one or more of the plurality of electronic documents, with a first case, wherein the first case corresponds to a first patent application, and wherein associating the first set of electronic documents with the first case comprises identifying the first set of electronic documents as relevant to the first patent application;~~

~~(c) instructions to associate a second set of electronic documents, comprising one or more of the plurality of electronic documents, with a second case, wherein the second case corresponds to a second patent application, and wherein associating the second set of electronic documents with the second case comprises identifying the second set of electronic documents as relevant to the second patent application;~~

~~(d) (f) instructions to provide a second interface element that is configured to allow the user to select the first reference as being relevant to the first patent application select at least one electronic document in the second set to be associated with the first case; and~~

~~(e) (g) in response to receiving from the user a second input corresponding to the second interface element, instructions to associate the first reference selected at least one electronic document with the first case; case file; and~~

(k) instructions to create an electronic information disclosure statement for the first patent application, wherein the electronic disclosure statement comprises information corresponding to the first reference.

21. (New) A method as recited by claim 1, wherein:

the electronic information disclosure statement comprises a plurality of fields for storing information from the first reference;

wherein the first reference comprises information corresponding to the plurality of fields, and

creating the electronic information disclosure statement comprises the information from the first reference and storing the information in the plurality of fields in the electronic information disclosure statement.